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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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ILLEGAL TO FEED STRIKERS

Toronto, Ontario, Sept. 2.—At the convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, to be held in this city September 25 to 30, changes in the industrial disputes act will be considered. This law prohibits strikes and lockouts in public utilities until 30 days' notice has been given the government.

It is intended to annul court decisions that debar victimized workers from relief. In the case of Montreal street car employes who were dismissed by the company, the Quebec superior court ruled that these workers could not ask the government to appoint a commission to investigate their case.

A vicious decision was made in Nova Scotia where workmen struck before a board was called in and were later furnished food paid for out of the funds of the union. One of the union officials was heavily fined for "encouraging the men to stay on strike," and Chief Justice Townshend declared that "it is difficult to conceive any more efficient means of aiding strikes than those found in the present case. It is, of course, precisely the aid wanted to enable strikers to live during the pendency of the strike."

Regarding this decision, J. G. O'Donoghue, attorney for the Trades and Labor Congress, said:

"In other words, the court's view was that the strikers should have been allowed to die of starvation. If the strikers had been in jail, the court would have probably have disciplined the jailer for allowing them fresh air—another means of allowing them to live. Shades of British justice!"

Minister of Labor Crothers has also prepared amendments to the present law, and in his analysis of these, Attorney O'Donoghue says:

"The more I consider the act and its suggestions, the more I am of the opinion that the intent of the draughtsman was to choke organized labor to death."

JUDGE HILLYER RENOMINATED.

Trinidad, Col., Sept. 2.—Renomination of Granby Hillyer for judge of the Third judicial district indicates that the fight for an untainted judiciary in this state is not yet won. Judge Hillyer was formerly attorney for the coal operators and was appointed by Governor Carlson to his present position, which was created by the last legislature. Judge Hillyer heard many of the miners' cases but the workers finally secured an order from the state supreme court debarring him from further consideration of these cases.

Judge Hillyer's sentence of life imprisonment for John R. Lawson was set aside by the state supreme court and that unionist has been released on bail pending a new trial. When asked if he had anything to say why sentence should not be pronounced, Lawson denounced Judge Hillyer and his hand-picked jury, composed of coal company partisans.

UNIONISTS OUTWIT EMPLOYERS.

Bridgeport, Conn., Sept. 2.—Striking iron molders, whose property has been seized by employers, have outwitted authorities who are levying on all money in sight. Unionists not members of the Iron Molders' union act as custodian of strike funds and the sheriff is helpless unless he finds the money on the person of the strikers. To date no striker has been found asleep.

Under the law of this state property of workers can be attached before a judgment is secured. In no other state is this procedure permitted, and it is now being used by Bridgeport founders to discourage striking iron molders. In other states a judgment must first be secured before property or moneys is seized, but in Connecticut employers can, as one trade unionist put it, "seize the worker's property and force him to go to law to recover it."

BARBERS INCREASE WAGES.

New York, Sept. 2.—About 6,000 barbers in the southern section of this city, known as "down town," have won a two days' strike and increased wages $1 a week. Officers of the Journeymen Barbers' International union are assisting in an organizing campaign that will include other sections of New York.

Allentown, Pa., Sept. 2.—Journeymen Barbers' union is enforcing its new $14 weekly minimum wage. Every shop in the city but two has accepted these rates.

St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 2.—Journeymen Barbers' union has prepared a new wage scale which provides for a minimum of $14 a week and 60 per cent of receipts over $22. The work day is to be limited to 12 consecutive hours, including time off for meals.

PORTO RICANS STRIKE.

San Juan, Porto Rico, Sept. 2.—Cigarmakers employed by the Porto Rican American Tobacco company are on strike for higher wages and because the company violated an agreement signed June 9, 1914. This concern, known as "the trust," has reduced wages and attempted to force an agreement on employes which would deny them the right to strike. The workers are also asked to contribute 50 cents a week to a so-called trade union conducted along the lines of Rockefeller's "union" in Colorado, and whose treasurer is the manager of the cigar company.

About 6,000 cigarmakers, tobacco strippers and other employes are affected by the strike.

REFUSE TO YIELD FREEDOM.

Hannibal, Mo., Sept. 2.—Plumbers' union declines to accept the strike settlement offered by their employers, which would pledge the plumbers to work for no employer who is not a member of the Master Plumbers' association. The strikers insist that any competent journeyman is welcomed to membership in their organization, but they will not tie themselves so that employment depends upon membership in an organization in which they have no voice.

TELEGRAPHERS MEDIATE.

Washington, Sept. 2.—Federal Mediator G. W. W. Hanger is conducting mediation proceedings in the case of 2,000 Baltimore & Ohio railroad telegraphers and station agents, members of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers, who are asking increased wages and improved working conditions.

GAINS FOR STAGE EMPLOYES.

Duluth, Minn., Sept. 2.—Stage Employes' union has raised wages as a result of conferences with theatrical managers. Stage carpenters are increased from $27.50 to $30 a week; property men from $22.50 to $25 a week; extra helpers from 50 to 65 cents an hour, and other employes secure proportional increases.

"LAW" SHOUTERS IN A HOLE

San Francisco, Sept. 2.—Ministers of this city have made public some awkward questions they submitted to business men at a meeting of the so-called law and order committee of the chamber of commerce, who invited the clergymen to discuss the present non-union shop campaign.

Because the attitude of the ministers was misconstrued, Rev. C. S. S. Dutton makes this statement:

"The questions asked by the ministers present showed clearly that, while they were for law and order in the truest sense, they were not convinced that, in view of past records, the carrying out of these principles should be left wholly in the hands of the chamber of commerce.

"The churchmen took the attitude that the issue was broader than merely the labor issue of San Francisco. That a great amount of forward-looking legislation, throughout the country, to establish human values in industry, had been initiated and fought for by the labor unions, and that the unions had thus performed tremendous services for the well-being of the men, women and children in toil; while the chambers of commerce of this nation, in the main, had been for years busily engaged in checking and opposing and retarding these humanitarian efforts."

The ministers asked the anti-unionists if they would agree to these three propositions: To hereafter support the forward-looking legislation that has always been advocated by the labor organizations? Would all the members of the chamber of commerce pledge themselves to conduct their business enterprises with the same broad spirit that has been shown by several of the individual employers among them? In their campaign for "law and order" would the chamber of commerce include every illegal and disorderly condition?

"There was no disposition to overlook the fact that there had been faults in the actions of the labor unions," said Rev. Dutton. "But it was brought out that if the labor unions were to go on trial on their past records, so must the chambers of commerce."

IMMIGRATION FIGURES.

Washington, Sept. 2.—The bureau of immigration, federal department of labor, reports that 20,967 immigrants were admitted during July of this year, against 25,097 during the corresponding month of 1915, and 72,015 during July, 1914. In the latter period Roumania furnished 246 immigrants, and in July, 1916, this number dropped to 10. Immigrants from Italy during July, 1914, totaled 7,503, and in July, 1916, 2,948. During the 1914 period 325 came from Bulgaria, Servia and Montenegro, but war conditions reduced this number to 53 during July, 1916.

Of the total number admitted during July, 1916, 3,633 were classified as laborers and 1,609 as farm laborers.

New York received 7,525 of these immigrants. Michigan came next with 2,464, followed by Massachusetts, 2,460; Pennsylvania, 1,230 and California, 1,089.

Of the southern states, Kentucky received 1; Mississippi, 4; Georgia, 6; Arkansas, 7; South Carolina, 8 and Tennessee, 11.

FARMERS SUPPORT STRIKERS.

Grayville, Ill., Sept. 2.—The executive board of the Illinois division of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union of America, in session at this place, has passed the following resolution:

"Whereas, The miners of Rosiclare, Hardin county, Illinois, unable to live under the present wage scale and labor conditions pertaining there, attempted to organize and were obstructed and blacklisted by the operators, and even terribly oppressed by the civil authorities of the town and county; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That we extend the sympathy of our organization to these brothers in toil, and urge all our members to do everything in their power to assist them in obtaining better conditions of life and labor."

R. R. SHOP MEN RAISE WAGES.

Indianapolis, Sept. 2.—Shop men employed by the Coal and Coke railway have secured a federated agreement which increases wages for every employe 2 cents an hour and upward. The agreement was witnessed by a representative of the federal department of labor. This official was called in by the company and Vice President Nolte of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen of America says: "This would indicate that the department is being recognized by the employers, also, as a great factor in the adjustment of disputes."

NEW LABOR LAWS IN GEORGIA.

Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 2.—Before final adjournment of the state legislature, labor secured these three remedial statutes: Compulsory education, factory inspector and a text book law. After a hard fight the workers were defeated in their effort to secure a law providing for semimonthly pay. The state federation of labor, the Farmers' union and the railroad brotherhoods acted jointly in these matters and the experience and solidarity that has been developed as a result of this three-cornered movement, will be of inestimable value in the future.

OPPOSE APPOINTED JUDGES.

San Francisco, Sept. 2.—As a part of its campaign for the non-union shop the chamber of commerce is circulating petitions to amend the city charter so police judges shall be appointed by the mayor instead of elected. The Labor Council opposes this move and declares that the municipal judicial machinery should be permitted to remain in direct control of the people.

WAR CAUSES INSANITY.

Cleveland, Sept. 2.—Dr. A. G. Hyde, head of the state hospital in this city, reports that during the year just closed, 131 patients, or 22 per cent of those admitted, were from homes rendered desolate by the loss of relatives in the European war. It is stated that the war is the leading cause of insanity, during the period referred to.

SPECIAL POLICE CONDEMNED.

Glens Falls, N. Y., Sept. 2.—At the convention of the state federation of labor the militia laws and state police statutes were condemned and it was resolved to take measures "to prevent the establishment of any such system of Russian cossacks, Irish constabulary, Mexican rurales and black-horse cavalry."

President Holland was re-elected and Jamestown was selected as the next convention city.

STRIKERS ENJOINED.

San Francisco, Sept. 2.—Temporary injunctions have been issued by Superior Court Judge Hunt against a score of striking culinary workers, who are asking for an eight-hour law.

President Submits Strike Situation to Congress

Washington, Sept. 2.—Last Tuesday President Wilson addressed congress on the railroad strike situation, and after recounting his futile efforts to adjust differences between the railroad managers and train service men, who are demanding an eight-hour day, he recommended that legislation of this nature be passed:

Enlarge the interstate commerce commission.

An eight-hour day for all railroad employes engaged in operating interstate commerce trains.

A presidential commission to study results of the application of the eight-hour day; facts to be reported to congress without recommendation, for the purpose of adjusting other matters in dispute and to ascertain if increased rates are necessary.

Amend the federal mediation, conciliation, and arbitration laws to provide a full public investigation before a strike or lockout may be lawfully attempted.

Empower the president, in case of military necessity, to seize and operate such railroads as may be required for military use and to draft into the military service such train crews and administrative officials as is necessary.

The president told congress he had proposed to the railroads that the eight-hour day be adopted and that he would appoint, with the permission of congress, a small commission to observe the results of the change, so that the administration could act intelligently in the matter of freight rates. The president said this was in line with the position taken by the United States supreme court, when appealed to to protect certain litigants from financial losses which they expected if they should submit to the regulation of their public charges by legislation.

"The court has held," continued the president, "that it would not undertake to form a judgment upon forecasts, but could base its action only upon actual experience; that it must be supplied with facts, not with calculations and opinions, however scientifically attempted."

The demand of the railroads that the eight-hour question be arbitrated caused this comment by the president:

"To undertake to arbitrate the question of the adoption of an eight-hour day in the light of results merely estimated and predicted would be to undertake an enterprise of conjecture. No wise man could undertake it, could feel assured of his conclusions.

"It seems to me, in considering the subject matter of the controversy, that the whole spirit of the time and the preponderant evidence of recent economic experience spoke for the eight-hour day. It has been adjudged by the thought and experience of recent years a thing upon which society is justified in insisting as in the interest of health, efficiency, contentment, and a general increase of economic vigor."

While the president made no reference to the Canadian industrial disputes investigation act, which prohibits a strike in public utilities until after 30 days' notice, the brotherhood executives indicated full agreement with the American Federation of Labor on legislation of this character. In a public statement, the brotherhood chiefs said:

"Since the abolition of slavery no more effectual means has been devised for insuring the bondage of the workingman than the passage of compulsory investigation acts of the character of the Canadian industrial disputes act. The writers speak from their personal experience thereunder, as these organizations are all international in their jurisdiction.

"Moreover, the period of investigation is eternally utilized by the employer to entrench himself in his effort to defeat the demands of the men, no matter how just their cause may be, and in a majority of instances, where a verdict by an investigating commission has been favorable to the men, it has been repudiated by the employer.

"In consequence of this attitude, disregard and for the ignoring of the provisions of that law has led to placing of thousands of men in the attitude of law breakers and the passage of laws which induce men to open violation thereof is a deadly injury to a nation because it breeds universal contempt for law.

"In the present strife, if such an act were passed, all that would be necessary would be for the power of attorney to be withdrawn from the national conference committee of managers by the individual roads and then immediate necessity would arise for 250 investigating boards to be created, or, if only a limited number were provided for, men would be compelled to remain for years in involuntary servitude if they obeyed the provisions of such a law."

BREAD HAS TOO MUCH WATER

Washington, Sept. 2.—In the house of representatives, while urging the passage of his bill which would permit the mixing of corn flour and wheat flour, Congressman Rainey, of Illinois, said:

"One reason for the opposition of the great commercial bakers to a loaf of bread made out of mixed flour is this: The loaf will be an honest loaf and it will be impossible for it to carry as much moisture as a loaf made entirely out of wheat flour. I have in my possession a number of clippings made from milling papers, some of them being made from the Northwestern Miller, one of the principal organs of the food trust, others being made from the trade papers which reach bakers."

The advertisements state that the various flours "have great water absorption," could "absorb large quantities of water," can "use more water," etc., etc.

Congressman Rainey said he purchased five 5-cent loaves of bread of different brands at a Washington market. Each weighed 13 ounces. The next day they weighed 12 ounces and the following day another ounce of water had been absorbed. He charged the large elevators with mixing No. 1 wheat with rejected and no-grade wheat, and cited statistics of Duluth elevators to prove his point. In one year these elevators received 15,000,000 bushels of No. 1 northern wheat and shipped out 19,000,000 bushels of the same kind of wheat. In the same year they took in 19,000,000 bushels of No. 2 northern wheat and shipped out only 15,000,000 bushels of the same grade.

"By the method in vogue of grading wheat at the elevators," he said, "wheat farmers are robbed and the food trust reaps enormous profits, and yet the same interests which mix wheat of different grades or of no grade in the same elevators of the country are opposed, all of them, to the mixed-flour bill, which would permit the sale on the market of perfectly pure corn flour and perfectly pure wheat flour combined."

DOCK STRIKE SETTLED.

San Francisco, Sept. 2.—The strike of Riggers and Stevedores' union, affiliated to the International Longshoremen's union, has been settled. The new agreement provides for the union shop and an increase of 10 per cent over the wages in effect prior to the strike of June 1. For deep water vessels the rates will be 55 cents an hour for straight time and $1 an hour for overtime. For coastwise shipping, 55 cents an hour and 82½ cents an hour for overtime. These rates will date back to August 1.

The strike resulted in the present agitation by the chamber of commerce, which has declared for the non-union shop. This was repudiated by the Waterfront Employers' union, which has conducted negotiations with the organized longshoremen.

The strike was part of a joint movement that extended up and down the Pacific coast, and includes Tacoma, Portland, Seattle, San Pedro and San Diego. These strikes are still on.

MACHINISTS MAKE GAINS.

Toronto, Ontario, Sept. 2.—The Canadian Foundry company has abandoned its trade union hostility and concedes the nine-hour day to striking machinists, who are recognized for the first time.

Hamilton, Ontario, Sept. 2.—The Otis-Fenson company has granted the nine-hour day with increased wages to machinists who have been on strike for several weeks. A government commission award was rejected by Hamilton employers and their machinists struck. The latter are forcing employers to accept the decision.

OPPOSE INJUNCTIONS.

Orange, N. J., Sept. 2.—At the state federation of labor convention last week delegates pledged themselves to work for the passage of a law limiting the use of injunctions in strike cases. The convention denounced the Connecticut law, which permits the seizure of workers' homes before judgment is secured. President Quinn and Secretary Hilfers were re-elected and Paterson was chosen as the next convention city.

'PHONE GIRLS RAISE WAGES.

Boston, Sept. 2.—The Boston Telephone Operators' union has signed an agreement with the New England Telephone and Telegraph company. With the exception of operators just out of training school, all will receive wage increases, ranging from 50 cents to $2 a week. Besides these increases, there will be shorter hours.

STRIKE FOR EIGHT HOURS.

Jersey City, N. J., Sept. 2.—After organizing a union and affiliating to the A. F. of L., employes of the Dairymen's Manufacturing company suspended work to enforce wage increases and an eight-hour day.

BOTTLERS 100 PER CENT UNION.

Baltimore, Sept. 2.—Beer Bottlers' union reports that with the signing of a contract by the Iroquois Brewing company it is now a 100 per cent organization.

TIRE MAKERS RAISE WAGES

Milltown, N. J., Sept. 2.—Six hundred rubber workers employed by the Michelin Tire company have raised wages from 2 to 5½ cents an hour, after a short strike. The lowest rate was 17 cents an hour before the strike, now it is 22 cents. A. F. of L. Organizer Hilfers conducted negotiations for the men and later organized them. Few can speak English and most of them are Hungarians, Poles, Slavs, and Russians. The company refused to meet Organizer Hilfers in person, but consented to talk with him over the telephone.

The strikers showed a contract, consisting of about 1,000 words, which the company presents to these men, few of whom understand the English language. Alleging that company secrets must be protected, all men who receive 21½ cents an hour shall be paid during the month of each April an amount for the preceding year that shall not be less than $17.33 for the entire year. The plan includes other elaborate systems and provides that for three years after he has terminated his employment with the company "no matter how or for what cause," the employe shall not engage in the manufacture or sale or study of articles of the same class or kind or in any manner similar to anything manufactured or sold or studied by the Michelin Tire company.

The contract also includes this interesting clause:

"That all inventions and improvements made in whole or in part by him (the employe) or under his direction or at his suggestion during his employment by the Michelin Tire company shall be its property and that for the purpose of vesting in it such inventions or improvemnts he will execute such papers as may be necessary."

PRESIDENT OHIO POLICE FREE SPEECH OPPONENT

Cedar Point, Ohio, Sept. 2.—Charles E. Carter, chief of police, Columbus, Ohio, has been elected president of the Ohio Police association at its annual convention. The new president has been in the limelight for the past several months because of his attempt to check free speech and run union organizers out of Columbus.

As president of the state police, Chief Carter would probably accept the influence of organized labor in the campaign for a state pension for police, which was indorsed by the convention. Other legislation favored is that police chiefs hold their jobs for life, that they may be "protected from the political highbinders of the cities," as one delegate put it.

In view of Chief Carter's attempt to gag free speech it will be interesting to note how hard organized labor smashes at this plan to give a life tenure to one who arrests union officials and holds them in his office until after union meetings adjourn.

UNIONISM IS UNSELFISH.

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 2.—State federation of labor officials are asking affiliated unions to contribute to a fund that will permit the employment of competent lawyers to draft a workmen's compensation act.

The incident again illustrates the unselfishness of trade unionism. In this agitation the unorganized are voiceless. Neither do they contribute money to make possible a law that will protect both them and their dependents.

Eventually, Missouri will pass a compensation law that will apply to all workers.

And as usual, when this law becomes effective society will overlook the fighting force that made the enactment possible, while courts will issue injunctions against unions and employers will plead for the non-union shop to protect the independence (?) of their "free" workmen.

EXPRESS DRIVERS UNITE.

Cincinnati, Sept. 2.—International Secretary Hughes of the Brotherhood of Teamsters has installed a new union of nearly 200 furniture, piano and express drivers.

St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 2.—Van Drivers and Helpers' union asks employers to establish a weekly wage and abolish the present contract and speeding up system.

SECURE EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Allentown, Pa., Sept. 2.—The International Motor company has established the eight hour day. Several weeks ago machinists at this plant struck for shorter hours and demanded that the company put in force the same workday prevailing at its plant in Plainfield, N. J. The strike was called off with this understanding.

CARMEN FORM UNION.

Indianapolis, Sept. 2.—Carmen employed by the C., C., C. & St. L. railway have organized and affiliated to the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen of America. About 200 employes signed the charter roll.

JUDGE DENIES FREE SPEECH

Detroit, Sept. 2.—Five striking union pattern makers have each been sentenced to 15 days in jail and $100 fine for contempt of court by Judge Van Tile.

An injunction was issued against these workers several weeks ago commanding them not to picket or to visit the homes of strikebreakers. In the case of Business Agent Krogstad it was shown that he had visited the home of a strikebreaker and discussed the strike, after which the latter declared the union was right in its fight for better working conditions. Krogstad was jailed and fined for this disobedience of the court's order. In sentencing him, Judge Van Tile said:

"I want you to understand property rights must be respected and that men cannot interfere with employes of this shop."

Robert Schram, another striker, was found guilty of standing on a corner one block from the struck plant. He was jailed and fined when he told the court he would continue to picket, as he was acting within his rights.

President Wilson of the Pattern Makers' League of North America is in the city aiding the strikers. He said that the courts can send every pattern maker in Detroit to jail but other pattern makers from every city in the country would take their places on the picket line.

The pattern makers' executive said:

"They may send more of our men to jail. But we will continue to send them here until they quit sending them to jail. There is no statute in the state of Michigan that denies the right to picket. But your state supreme court has said so. It is not the function of a court to legislate. If they who made the constitution of this country thought judges proper men to legislate, they would not have provided for legislators.

"We are not going to ask Detroit trade unionists for one penny of financial support. We don't need it. Our members pay high dues. We have plenty of money, but we want organized workers to give their moral support as an argument to show why the law of the state of Michigan should say that judges shall not issue injunctions of this kind."

IN SHERMAN'S HOME TOWN.

Springfield, Ill., Sept. 2.—This city is the home of United States Senator Sherman, and Editor Woodmansee of the Illinois Tradesman, official paper of the Springfield Federation of Labor, has this to say of Senator Sherman's attack on President Gompers:

"Senator Sherman has been proclaimed here in his home town as 'the favorite son of Illinois,' but his attack on President Gompers, which in reality means an attack on the union labor movement, has only served to bring him down upon a level with the common everyday politician.

"The labor movement has known Samuel Gompers too long to allow Sherman or any other politician to change their minds or in any way interfere with their admiration for the great head of the American labor movement.

"If Samuel Gompers is 'a public nuisance,' let us have more 'public nuisances' and the world will be better for it."

FAVORS STATE INSURANCE.

Tulsa, Okla., Sept. 2.—Compensation insurance, controlled entirely by the state, was favored by President Fenton in his annual report to the state federation of labor convention. Oklahoma unionists urged state insurance at the last legislature and presented a bill along these lines, but the senate rejected the section.

"And during the past year," said President Fenton, "the insurance companies have reaped a golden harvest as a result of their work at the regular session, and employers are paying higher premiums than would have been necessary under an insurance law."

The unionist recommended that convicts be used on state roads instead of allowing them to come in competition with free labor.

PRESS FEEDERS GAIN.

Philadelphia, Sept. 2.—Press Feeders and Assistants' union No 11 has secured the following wage increases:

Flat bed presses, from $13.50 to $15; automatic presses, from $14.50 to $15.50; magazine presses, from $17 to $21, according to size; night rates $2 over day rates.

These workers are affiliated to the International Printing Pressmen's and Assistants' union.

DEMAND EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Dayton, Ohio, Sept. 2.—Machinists employed in local factories have suspended work to enforce an eight-hour day.

Practically every machine shop in the city is tied up. The strikers were refused a hall to hold their first meeting and 5,000 machinists and sympathizers listened to stirring addresses while standing on the flat lands along the river bottom.

A. F. OF L. IN NEW HOME.

Washington, Sept. 2.—Last Monday the American Federation of Labor began moving its offices to the new seven-story A. F. of L. building, at the corner of Massachusetts avenue and Ninth street, northwest. The building was dedicated July 4 last.

MANAGERS' PLEA IS NOT SUPPORTED BY FACTS

Washington, Sept. 2.—In a statement signed by executives of the four railroad brotherhoods it is shown that the plea of railroad managers that "we stand for the principle of arbitration" and that "it is essentially the common right of every citizen, of whatever station in life, to be heard, to have his day in court," is mere words, which the workers refer to as "this new-born and loudly proclaimed belief."

To prove their point the brotherhood executives list 64 properties controlled by the managers, which they debar from present negotiations. "In addition to these," the statement continues, "are a large number of quasi-independent properties, largely dominated by the same financial powers, which we have vainly demanded should be included.

"It might be pertinent at this time to refer to the fact that the conference committee of managers and their supporters have excluded the army of colored brakemen and firemen employed on the southern railways from all benefits that might be granted in these negotiations or from all arbitrations that might arise. Are they or are they not entitled to their 'day in court?'

"Likewise the white firemen employed on those lines where the negro predominates. Why is he excluded from the benefits of this beneficent plan of arbitration?

"Also, the hostlers on 18 of the leading properties that are represented by the conference committee; if arbitration is so desirable, why will these companies not grant that boon to those men?

"The extreme solicitude on the part of the railway presidents for the 80 per cent of unorganized employes and their rights become farcical when it is known that on a large number of those lines it is a dischargeable offense on any of their railways for that 80 per cent to take steps toward organizing for the purpose of bettering their wages or working conditions. These unorganized employes realize better than any one else can that their only hope for better wages, shorter hours or better working conditions lies in their being established by organized labor."

WHY "ARBITRATION" IS REJECTED BY MEN

Railroad train service employes demand an eight-hour day with pay for overtime. The managers demand arbitration and the workers object, because:

The railroads have refused to abide by former arbitration awards, and have forced employes to spend vast sums of money to compel enforcement of decisions.

While the railroads are now demanding arbitration they have excluded from present negotiations employes of many properties who are denied a voice because they are not organized. "Railroads arbitrate where employes are strong and fight where they are weak," say the brotherhoods.

The railroads have excluded many other train service employes from present negotiations.

Another reason why the employes decline arbitration is because the managers would include gains that have been secured through years of fighting by the brotherhoods.

CAR MEN GAIN GROUND.

Birmingham, Ala., Sept. 2.—A three-year union shop agreement between the Street Car Men's union and the local street car company has been ratified by both parties. Wage increases that will average 2 1-2 cents an hour September 1, 1917, has been secured.

The union shop clause provides:

"All employes who are or who may become members of this association shall remain members in good standing in accordance with the laws of the association during the life of this agreement, and any member who fails to comply with this section shall be dismissed from the service of the company."

The employes are pledged to give their earnest co-operation to prevent personal injury, loss of life and damage to property, and assist in every way the "safety first" organization of the company.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Sept. 2.—After a short strike the local street car company has agreed to recognize the Street Car Men's union and reinstate discharged men. Wage rates and working conditions will be taken up by the company and a committee of employes. In case of failure of agreement these questions are to be arbitrated.

About 300 employes suspended work. They included conductors, motormen, shop men, linemen, meter readers and power house men.

OPPOSE MEXICAN INTERVENTION

San Francisco, Sept. 2.—The Mexican Property Owners' Non-Intervention league has been formed in this city by Americans who have large property interests in the southern republic.

"We favor," says the declaration of principles, "action by the United States that will tend towards the rehabilitation of Mexico on lines that shall be mutually agreed upon, and that every effort shall be taken for complete co-operation in assisting in this rehabilitation.

"It shall also be the object of this organization to give publicity to the actual facts as to the conditions as they exist in Mexico, in order that the American public may be convinced that intervention by force would be no less than a crime, and that such intervention has not heretofore been necessary or required, and certainly is not necessary at the present time."

FAVOR STATE INSURANCE.

Cincinnati, Sept. 2.—Because official acts and judicial decisions have undermined the purpose of the state workmen's compensation law, Secretary-Treasurer Donnelly of the state federation of labor urges Ohio trade unionists to circulate petitions for a referendum law that will prohibit private companies from writing liability insurance. The executive board of the state federation of labor inaugurated this referendum because of a recent decision by the state supreme court and the licensing of private companies by the state insurance commissioner. The workers insist that these rulings have violated the spirit of compensation legislation and they are demanding that private companies be eliminated and that employers contribute to the state fund or pay compensation direct to injured workmen or the dependents of those killed in industry.

THREATS CAN'T STOP UNION.

Lima, Ohio, Sept. 2.—When the Cigarmakers' union began an organizing campaign at the factories of the Deisel-Wemmer company, the superintendent began to make speeches to the 1,600 employes. At his first effort he sternly declared:

"We know that a lot of you people are joining the union, and I want to tell you that we will let our tobacco rot in the warehouse before we raise the wages of a single employe one penny and we will close these shops down forever rather than be dictated to by the union."

Then the meeting adjourned and about 700 of the $4 a week girls and low wage men joined the union.

At the next meeting the superintendent gave forth the glad tidings that the company had concluded to raise wages.

STRIKEBREAKERS STRIKE.

Marinette, Wis., Sept. 2.—The Central West Coal company believes in "freedom" to such an extent that it held back wages it promised imported "free and independent" workmen. The company has a strike of strikebreakers on its hands as a result. Former employes demand a nine-hour day, improved working conditions and a living wage.

SHOP MEN STRIKE.

Chillicothe, Ohio, Sept. 2.—Because the Baltimore & Ohio railroad rejected a demand for wage increases, 140 helpers and laborers in the railroad shops have suspended work. Present rates range from 16½ to 21 cents an hour.

ICE DRIVERS STRIKE.

Memphis, Tenn., Sept. 2.—Because seven ice companies refused to better working conditions of their drivers the ice delivery system of this city has been completely tied up.

NEWSPAPER PRINTER DOOMED?

Indianapolis, Sept. 2.—The newspaper printer is doomed and joys reigns in the camp of every advocate of "scientific management." The printerman must make way for chimpanzees.

Writing in the Typographical Journal from Honolulu, A. B. H. Cole tells the story of Biz Fox, a chimpanzee linotype operator, who composed 101,000 ems solid brevier in eight hours and forty-five minutes. The chimpanzee has other accomplishments besides being a "swift." He is a champion bicycle rider and has been arrested by traffic policemen. It is stated that a company is being formed to supply newspapers with chimpanzee operators. About the only drawback to this arrangement is the question of morals. The organized printerman does not get drunk, but his rival is an excessive patron of the flowing bowl. That newspapers may be published regularly, Correspondent Cole says the company will remedy this evil by crossing the chimpanzee with the white-faced monkey of China and make him a temperance advocate.

Under the new conditions employers will no longer be bothered with wage scales and arbitration proceedings, but the company will demand that no chimpanzee farmed out by it shall be worked more than 14 hours a day and that they shall be fed at least three times every 24 hours on cocoanuts, squid, sea weed and chocolate candy.

To silence the scoffer and doubting Thomas, Mr. Cole forwards the picture of Biz Fox, seated in front of a linotype machine, as proof that another labor displacer is here.

TO GREET ENGLISH UNIONISTS.

New York, Sept. 2.—President Mahon of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes, and President Woll of the International Photo Engravers' union, sailed for England last Saturday, as fraternal delegates from the American Federation of Labor to the British Trades Union Congress, which will convene in Birmingham, this month.

Messrs. Mahon and Woll were elected to attend the 1914 convention of the British Trades Union Congress, but the meeting was postponed on account of the war. In 1915 circumstances again prevented the attendance of the American delegates, who were re-elected at the San Francisco convention of the A. F. of L. to serve as fraternal delegates this year and extend greetings which have been continuous since 1894 when John Burns and David Holmes represented the English workers at the Denver convention. The first American delegates to England were Samuel Gompers and P. J. McGuire, deceased.

SAYS PERIL IS NOT EXTERNAL.

Milwaukee, Sept. 2.—"Preparedness which begins and ends with increasing our military and naval strength is nothing but militarism. True preparedness involves economic, social and industrial changes," said Benjamin Marsh, executive secretary of the committee on real preparedness.

"We do not oppose adequate national defense; we are not pacifists. But we refuse to be stampeded into what we believe to be militarism by men who want big armaments because they can make money out of them. The real danger comes from within—from forces which oppose social justice, which defend and promote monopolies that operate against public welfare. Low wages, child labor, land monopoly and unjust taxation are America's enemies. It is these things that we must fight against."

TO AID MEXICAN WORKERS.

Washington, Sept. 2.—President Gompers has forwarded a letter to all national unions, and western state and central bodies for lists of unions having Mexican workers and for other information that will be helpful to the A. F. of L. in its efforts to inform these workers of the Mexican situation and to show them the necessity for identifying themselves with the organized labor movement and co-operating for the welfare of the workers of both countries. Special literature has been prepared for this educational campaign, which is intended to solidify the workers of both the United States and Mexico.

OPPOSE JITNEY ORDINANCE.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Sept. 2.—Trade unionists are opposing a jitney ordinance which would compel all jitney drivers to give a bond of $2,500 and would be the means of putting most of them out of business. The workers ask that enforcement of the ordinance be postponed while the street car strike is in progress. The strike has been on for several months.

IRON MOLDERS REDUCE HOURS.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Sept. 2.—Striking iron molders have secured a nine-hour day and improved working conditions at the Chattanooga Roofing and Foundry company's plant. The company has dismissed its general manager and installed a union foreman.